Mrs. Marina Oswald Porter
1850 FM 550
Rockwall, TX 75807

9/13/94

Dear Marina,

Your call did not cost me sleep, but it did take the time I'd have spent writing early this morning because I was able to sleep a little later. So, when I left for my early morning walking I did not have my work on my mind and it turned to what you want to do. An idea came to mind that I will at least begin to go into. I have an 8 a.m. dental appointment and today is a voting day. Then I'll have the mail to take care of. I do not let it accumulate. So I may be interrupted several times in writing this.

In trying to think about what you can take to court, not being a lawyer I am limited. But something did come to mind that I'll now only indicate because going into all of it will take much time in writing and would require that you know what I think you do not know. I begin by telling you a story as a means of illustration.

Many years ago I learned, in simplest form, that if the front door is locked, try the back door. It is by means of this thinking that I got documentary proof that Lee had to have had the high security clearances as a Marine that I report in Oswald in New Orleans. I think that this ~~proved~~ can provide another back door, for you. But it will require a dependable lawyer and one who will have the time to learn what he or she would have to learn and then not be one whose mind is contaminated by either the longing to solve the crime, which is close to impossible, or the multitude of theories all of which can be refuted in varying degrees.

In thinking of this another possibility came to mind. This one has to do with the number the Commission said it had been told Lee had as some kind of intelligence operative, in the report it got for the FBI. The Commission knew that the number it used, S-172, was not the right number. The right number my original records of which were stolen from me but of which I have a copy now, was 110669. The right number, that is, as the Commission was told. The reporter who made the wrong number up became a friend of mine. He will not respond when I ask him about the right number.

So, if and when you can come up here, and I hope the college will invited you, remember these two things for use to go into, the possibilities presented by the security clearance and by the number. If it is possible for you to come, I think you should bring your own tape recorder and tape what we talk about and use our copier to make and have copies of what you may be able to use. I have no selfish interest in this and you can have the only tape.

Something else came to mind that I see no immediate means of using but perhaps in the future this can change. In any event, you should know about it.

J. Edgar Hoover, for all the big talk about him, was really close to hysterical over the assassination and kept telling President Johnson utter nonsense. One of his crazy ideas is that you would try to flee the country. The FBI does lots of illegal wiretapping.

I've caught it in some. But with the assassination doing that was too risky. So although he hated Earl Warrren Hoover had lunch with him and talked Warren into the need to tap your phone. So, the attorney general gave permission based on Warren's desire. The FBI believes it does not need any authority to bug, place microphones in a home. They did that to your home before you moved in.

I do not now go into all their lies to withhold this stuff but I did learn about it and I did get the Dallas files on it. They have tricky numbers intended to deceive. There are two, 66-1313 and 66-1313A.

When I learned from their records the kind of personal information they picked up and used I refused to accept copies of the tapes. If I had, they would have had the excuse to let others have them. As you can see, although they did not like you, they have not dared do that.

They even taped you conversations with you lawyer. What can be embarrassing to you is your conversations with your women friends. Including about your dreams.

They had a van near your house and agents in it around the clock. That is where they made the tapes and notes. I have the notes but I have no clear recollection of their content.

Now I have to stop for a little while but what I do not want to forget is that if the college does give you an invitation, it will be with all the protections you could want and they'll probably think of protections for you that you will not think of. I have already discussed this with my dear friend the history professor I mentioned to you. He teaches a course on the politics of assassination, not a whodunit, and is well familiar with the subject.

Some of the people with whom you have been dealing can present problems to you. Lifton and Livingstone are enemies, yet the Baltimore cop, Richard Waybright, who works for Livingstone, also works for Lifton! He is also a thief, having stolen from me for Lifton. Lifton himself is a thief, and the kind who brags about it. I have what he wrote someone else about how he was going to steal a good print of the Zapruder film from NBC-TV and then the letter in which he boasted of doing it. Each has his own agenda. From what some of Lifton's silly followers have written, he has shifted to now supporting the Warren Commission. Livingstone actually believes all his craziness. And he is not exactly straight in the head anyway.

You can accomplish nothing with people like them, not in your own interests.

I do not regard the efforst I am making or you want to make as futile. If the effort is not made nothing can happen. If I did not really believe it is important to make a record, because unless it is made it cannot be used, I would not be working as I have been since my 1989 heart operation to make as much of a record as I can, to have it on paper for others to use, if and when that time comes. I do not think it is imp-

possible, much as the odds are against it. Otherwise, old, frail and ill as I am, I would be takin it easy and doing things to enjoy them. I do not enjoy what I do but it is satisfying because I am confident it is worthwhile. I regret that I do not have more time for it.

There is also something else to keep in mind, what is success and what is failure. I believe my greatest success was a failure. FBI corruption in one of my earliest Freedom of Information (FOIA) lawsuits lost that case for me. But Congress cited that case as requiring the amending of FOIA in 1974 and because of it FBI, CIA and other agency records like them became available. I lost that lawsuit but won a much more important victory. As a result of which I refiled that suit and did get some of the records that had been denied me by that corruption.

On this you may want to remember, and I do go into it in Post Mortem, that not from the FBI but from the successor to the Atomic Energy Commission, I got proof that Lee had not fired a rifle that day.

I go into these things for your understanding, including of what is success.

I filed a lawsuit to make the FBI give me its records without charge. I could not pay for them. I was lucky to get an honest judge. I asked my lawyer to do more than ask for free copies of the records. I had trouble persuading him but when I insisted he did what on the face seemed ridiculous. I asked the judge to not allow those records to be given to the press before I had copies. I asked for a temporary restraining order. In arguing that I said that unless I had the records to be able to respond to questions by the press the FBI would use the disclosure of those records as a media event.

That was a man-bites-dog story, the one who had done most and fought hardest to have the records released demanding that they not be. I did not expect the judge to give me that but in making that demand I served two purposes. One was to draw attention to it, and that worked, and the other was to give the judge something to deny me while he gave me what I wanted, those records free. It also made him look more impartial. And it worked. If I had not pulled that stunt no reporter would have been there.

Until you hear from the college, if you do, I encourage you to think about what this all did to you, how you were treated and mistreated, the kind of life it mean for you and for your daughters, how you came to and were able to live with it, raise them and go on with your life. These are I think the kinds of things sociologists are interested in and what they can learn from them can have considerable value for other people. It will also serve to make an important part of the history a matter of record. Aside from what it can mean for you, it can mean much for your grandchildren and their children and so on forever. And in time it can have meaning in what you want to do and I think despite the odds can be done and yet will be.

I hope you can see that when the front door is locked we can sometimes go through the back door, as I have several times.

But in order to be able to do something it is necessary to use an approach that can get media attention. I am not now talking about what ~~no ver~~ never does any real or lasting good, the supermarket tabloids or their TV equivalents. One means of doing that is to embarrass the government over its dishonesties in a way that can get the right kind of ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ attention. It is not impossible.

In this I am not talking about your appearance at the local college if they ask that of you. I think more important is sociologists talking to you and making a record of it. But if they invite you to speak, and this was what the professor said immediately, it should be limited to the college audience, mostly young women, and that any questions should be screened. That is to say that before you answer any question those that are nutty or about the assassination are eliminated.

If they invite you as a speaker they pay for that.

You may also want to think about whether, when it is controlled like this, you may want it not limited to the students. I believe your personal story should ~~go~~ get out, not twisted and for special purposes, like Priscilla had, but what I indicate above. I think it is quite possible that for that, where no silly or embarrasing questions can be used and all about the assassination, about which you know nothing is eliminated, it can help with what you want to do. It should and I think it would create sympathy for you and for what all this meant to you as a woman, as a wife and as the mother of young children. It would ~~xxxx~~ also make it clear that everything was wrong, very wrong. And that can serve as a beginning for what you want to do.

If this become possible, and if you have never spoken before a live audience before, that is nothing to worry about. What you will be talking about is what you know very well. If you are just yourself and talk as you would in a normal conversation, that will do very well. You can write it out or what would be better, just have some notes on what you would want to say so you do not ~~xxxxx~~ forget those things and just be yourself.

There are things you can properly say nothing about. The Martin bsuiness, the Willard Hotel part, for example. The FBI spied that out and used it as a club against the Secret Service. The wiretapping and the bugging you can use without going into all the content. I can give you copies of the reports from which you can select those you may want to use. You are welcome to all of them for your own records. The FBI's records on how they pressured you, ~~xx~~ even not trusting the local immigration people and bringing a special one down from New York. That in particular of this kind of dirty stuff can help make it clear that they had a reason for such bad behavior and that the reason was they wanted all the support they could manufacture for the phony story that became the official line when Hoover decided the day of the assassination that it was ~~xxxx~~ Lee and Lee alone-

before any investigation at all. I have a record in which he said that.

There is something else I learned years ago, that the weak do not survive attacks by the stong if they only try to defend themslves. They have to find ways of taking the initiative and then doing it. I've given you a few examples of this and there are many more. But when I was broke and in debt I did get all those records without charge and the law was amended in part over what I had done to make all those records available then and since then and at the time that was in court the Department of Justice had what called itself the "Get Weisberg" crew of six lawyers. And they lost. (They then shifted to even dirtier things in secret but what I got speaks for itself about the outcome.)

I do not know if you will hear from the college. My history professor friend, Dr. Gerald McKnight, will propose it to the sociology department. I do not know any of the professors in it. But the president of the college is a remarkable woman who is also a director of the Carnegie fund for education, among other things. She is retiring in June. Her name is Dr. Martha Church. The vice president, also a wonderful woman, is Dr. Barbara Hetrick. She is a sociologist.

Time to go to the dentist. I'll read and correct this when I have time and if I think of any more and have the time I'll add it.

But I do think that if the college invites you it can mean a real opportunity for you and for doing some good under circumstances that assure you will be in a friendly environment.

But there is one thing I do not want to forget. You may take it as a sales pitch but that is not my purpose. I want to tell you a bit more about these people.

We have no children so years ago I deeded them all we have except my car. That will go to friends who have a daughter in college now and a son soon to be there. Not only all the records I got from the government, which I have refused to sell. All my own work and all the copyrights on my books. Plus our property, only about 10 minutes from the college. Five plus acres at the bottom of the mountains that begin here, wooded and with many plants, flowerbeds. And the animals, that now include what was unheard of around here, wild turkeys in addition to the deer and numerous smaller animals with which we cohabitate. Even the skunks and I have worked it our. They come at night for what the birds waste that we really cannot keep cleaning up. They pay no attention to the lights but when I rattle the doorknob they go. This is what we think of the college and the good they do. Years later, when they decided to award me an honorary doctor of philosophy degree they included my wife. They understood that what I have done would be impossible without her, and she should have been honored, too. So they selected convocation for their 100th year, of which they made a big thing. Ours were the only awards at it. Those who receive the awards are expected to say a few words. My wife asked me to speak for both. All I said

was that while of course we are both honored and appreciative, I am particularly grate-that they recognized the fact that without what my wife has done with so little recognition, I would not have been able to do what I did. And as we left the stage when it was all over, with the organ blasting away, as we walked donw the aisle we could not hear what people said but their mouths made it obvious they were saying, "Thank you."

And with all the people there and all else she had to do, the college president found out where my family was sitting at the excellent refreshments they had and first thing she did was go to them, ask if there was anything they wanted, and then just spent some time with them. Before going to her duties of the occasion.

So we have this high regard for them. And that is becaue they are such good people and because it is so fine a college. US New rates them all annually, and the rating are by the other college and university presidents. This year they included this small college with all the universities of the northeast and its rating was high, higher than many of the larger and more famous universities.

If I did not believe this can be important to you and to the country and that in this instance both coincide I'd not be taking this time.

And I think that if it comes to pass when it is over you'll be more than merely satisfied.

You do not have to Mr. me unless you are more comfortable doing it.

Best wishes,

Harold